

May 10, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist HWS

RE: Field Inspection, Smith and Aussi, Inc. White Mountain Gypsum, M/027/001, Millard County, Utah

Location:

I visited the White Mountain Gypsum Mine site on May 6, 1988. The mine is accessed by exiting I-15 at Meadow Utah, driving into town then turning right onto Center Street. Center Street turns into a BLM dirt road, which takes you to the mine site 5 miles outside of town. The mine is located on the south side of the road at the toe of the White Mountain dune.

File Status:

Tentative approval of the mine plan was made June 27, 1979. Final approval was given on August 24, 1979, after a bond was posted for \$2,804.00. The last piece of correspondence from the operator in our file, indicates the claim is now held by another individual, Byron A. Ray.

Field Inspection:

It appears that the site has been abandoned. I spoke with an old prospector at the site(he wouldn't give me his name), who indicated that the County maybe using it as a gravel quarry. He also indicated that there was a new claim holder, Mr. Ray.

The disturbance is very small, some 2-3 acres. A slight depression at the base of the collapsed highwall has ponded with water. No steep highwalls now exist.

The soils are very sandy with little soil development. Lack of soil development is due to dry desert like conditions. White Mountain is a large sand dune. The plant community consists of the desert shrub type, including: shadescale, rabbitbrush, greasewood, and sagebrush.

Site Status:

The disturbance does not present an environment or safety hazard at this time. It is located on flat terrain with no significant drainage close by. No shafts or portals are exposed and the highwall is insignificant.

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Recommendations:

Contact new claim holder and county to determine present status of site. If the new claim holder will file a SMO we could release the bond money to Smith and Aussi, Inc. If no immediate plans have been made for the area we can ask Smith and Aussi, Inc. to reclaim it.

cc: L. Braxton
F. Filas
W. Hedberg

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